



The Types of Phasmida in the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg (ZMAS)

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Abstract

Type specimens of 67 taxa of Phasmida (including probable type specimens of 24 taxa) have been located in the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg. The species are listed alphabetically, with the number of specimens, sex and locality data.

Key words: Phasmida, type species, St. Petersburg, Bey-Bienko, Brunner, Mishchenko, Redtenbacher

Introduction

In their 1906–08 monograph on Phasmida, Brunner and Redtenbacher indicated the presence of type material of 40 species in the Zoological Museum, Academy of Science, St. Petersburg collection. These authors also mentioned non-type specimens of species already described by other authors. In order to clarify the position with certain material, I visited St. Petersburg in August, 2006, to examine this neglected collection and produce a list of type material.

The collection contains about 40 drawers of older identified material, mainly collected pre-1901 from many countries, but with an emphasis on South Asia. There are also approximately 80 drawers of recently collected, undetermined material, mainly from Central and South Asia (much collected by Gorochov). After a detailed examination of older specimens and data labels, also discussions with the present curator, Andrej Gorochov, it has been established that many specimens were obtained from and/or identified by Brunner and Redtenbacher, whose determination labels are attached to specimens. These are often specimens described or mentioned in their monograph (1906–08). It is believed that many specimens were purchased from the Brunner collection, after his death (Gorochov, verbal information from a previous curator). Whilst much of Brunner's collection is in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (NHMW), specimens have been widely distributed, for example by exchange (Brock, 1998), hence part of the type series is housed in depositories not specified in the monograph. I traced a number of such specimens in St. Petersburg (see discussion for possible origin).

Many older specimens in the St. Petersburg collection (including those described by Brunner and Redtenbacher) originate from German sources, including natural history specimen dealers such as Hans Fruhstorfer (1866–1922) and Ernst Heyne (1833–1905) (Asian specimens marked 'Heyne, 901'), or expeditions by Russian entomologists. Madagascan material was almost certainly purchased from Franz Sikora (1862–63 to 1902).

Most of the definite type material i.e. mentioned in the monograph, and agreeing in measurements given, have separate labels with numbers on (Sikora's Madagascan material does not). In some other European collections (Brock, 1998) the use of numbers linked directly with handwritten listings of species names supplied